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Docket No. F-7029 Ser. No. 09/885,829

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a seed disease comprising the steps of:

sterilizing seeds by at least one of a physical technique and a chemical technique; and

treating the thus sterilized seeds by an effective plurality of types of microorganisms which are antagonistic against a pathogen of a seed borne disease, wherein at least one type of said effective microorganisms is a bacterium belonging to the genus Pantoea and at least one other type of said effective microorganisms is a bacterium belonging to the genus Leclercia, each of said types of microorganisms belonging to the genus Pantoea and the genus Leclercia being antagonistic against a pathogenic bacterium belonging to the genus Xanthomonas.

3 - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein at least one type of said effective microorganisms is a microorganism separated from seeds which have been obtained by seed production.

6. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease, according to claim 2, wherein the seeds to be treated are those which have been contaminated with the pathogen of the seed borne disease.

7. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein the thus treated seeds are those belonging to a family selected from the group consisting of the family Brassicaceae, the family Umbelliferae, the family Solanaceae, the family Cucurbitaceae, the family Compositae, the family Liliaceae, the family Chenopodiaceae and the family Leguminosae.

8. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein said physical technique is a dry-heating treatment or a warm-water treatment.

9. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein said chemical technique is a treatment selected from the group consisting of a soaking treatment, a powder-coating treatment, and a coating-treatment, and wherein all three treatments are performed using a synthetic agrochemical.

10. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganisms is performed such that the seeds are soaked in an aqueous dispersion of the effective microorganisms.

11. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganisms is performed such that the seeds are pelleted by a coating material containing the effective microorganisms.

12. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein a treatment by said effective microrganisms is performed such that the seeds are film-coated by a coating solution containing the effective microorganisms.

13. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein a treatment by said effective microorganisms is performed such that the seeds are allowed to absorb water by contacting a carrier impregnated with an aqueous dispersion of the effective microorganisms.

14. (Previously presented) Seeds a disease of which has been controlled by treating the seeds by the method of claim 2.

15-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein Pantoea sp. TK-185 (FERM BP-7618) is used as one of said effective microorganisms.

20. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein Leclercia adecarboxylata TK-151 (FERM BP-7617) is used as one of said effective microorganisms.

21. (Previously presented) The method of controlling the seed disease according to claim 2, wherein said seed disease is a seed borne disease selected

from the group consisting of Alternaria Brassicae, Alternaria brassicicola, Peronospora brassicae, Pseudomonas syringae p.v. maculicola, Xanthomonas campestris p.v. campestris and Phoma lingam of the cabbage, Alternaria japonica, Alternaria brassicae, Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. raphani, Xanthomonas campestris p.v. campestris of the radish, Alternaria brassicae, Xanthomonas campestris p.v. campestris, Verticillium dahliae of the Chinese cabbage, Alternaria dauci, Alternaria radicina, Xanthomonas compestris p.v. carotae of the carrot, Septoria apii, Sclerotinia sclerotiorum, Pseudomonas syringae p.v. apii of the celery, Alternaria porri, Botrytis allii, Botrytis byssoidea, Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cepae and Peronospora destructor of the onion, Peronospora farinosa, Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. spinaciae, Colletotrichum dematium of the spinach, Alternaria solani, Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis, Xanthomonas campestris p.v. vesicatoria of the tomato, Alternaria solani, Phomopsis vexans of the egg plant, Alternaria cucumerina, Pseudomonas syringae p.v. lachrymans, Xanthomonas campestris p.v. cucurbitae of the cucumber, Alternaria zinniae, Xanthomonas campestris p.v. zinniae of the common zinnia, Sclerotinia sclerotiorum, Alternaria helianti of the sun flower, and Xanthomonas campestris p.v. campestris of the ornamental kale.